

Beckham News Dispatch

Beckham, Va. (United Press) Several weeks have elapsed since you received news from this section, owing to a lot of sickness which prevented your correspondent from writing.

Quite a lot of butchering was done in this neighborhood last week notwithstanding the warm weather.

Hunters around here report scarcity of game. Several have been afield all day and when night came reported no game, no even having seen a rabbit.

Herman Moore Jr., who is attending college at Ashland, spent Thanksgiving and the week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Moore, of Beckham.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs.

P. H. Burge, who has been ill with pneumonia, is improving.

Miss Eunice Martin and Gladys Coleman spent several days recently in Roanoke with Miss Hazel Martin, who with her brother, Andrew, accompanied them home for the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Martin had a late dinner guests on Sunday Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Martin and family, of Oakville, and the Rev. and Mrs. T. E. Johnson.

Mrs. Marvin Drinkard was rushed to Memorial hospital last Friday and operated upon at P. M. Her physician reports she is recovering nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. John Laughan, of Harrisonburg were week end guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Laughan.

Mrs. Clyde Moore and children, of Appomattox, spent several days of last week with her parents, Mr.

and Mrs. H. O. Martin.

Mrs. T. R. Martin, who was sick last week with a rising throat, is better. Her sister, Virginia Morris spent several days with her.

Campaign for Libraries

Librarians from the 48 states, Canada, and South American countries, numbering more than 3,000, have started a united campaign to bring existing libraries closer to the actual needs of book borrowers, and in sparsely populated regions, to extend library service to isolated farmers.

They are facing the fact that more than 38,000,000 rural people in the United States are without adequate local public library service.

The librarians are agreed that in order to have people take a more intelligent part in the functioning of their government, they must be supplied with plenty of information and help people to read more widely on current issues.

Fences Asset to Property

Good fences make good neighbors. Many people look upon fences as unfriendly barriers erected to prevent intrusion and to exclude neighbors and friends. The reverse is often true, as a good fence, built with an eye to beauty and fitted to the architectural character of the house, may be an asset to many properties.

The flower enthusiast will find the fence a protection from wandering neighborhood pets. A fence helps to confine the activities of small children and prevents them from straying into the street.

Fences come in a variety of sizes and makes. Wire and metal fences are usually associated with farms and factories are now made in smart styles for private homes. Wooden fences, long in use, have been developed in many architectural styles to serve as compliments to homes of Cape Cod, colonial, modern, village, gothic, conical, and other designs.

Tip Toppers

Irene Stevens (left) and Kae Sumner, members of the Tip Toppers club, all of whom must be over six feet four. Miss Sumner, who organized the club, went to New York to appear on Ripley's program. The man is "Stormy Bergh," three feet tall.

Experimental Tests for Cancer

Speaking before the section of dermatology and syphilology in the Commemorative Dr. Albert Strickler of the Skin and Cancer hospital of Philadelphia, reported recently the first results of an experiment to find a test for determining the existence of cancer within the body.

Dr. Strickler said that after the urine of normal people and those with various degrees of the disease had been treated with ultraviolet rays and injected intravenously into rabbits, there were mostly negative results from the normal people and those with benign tumors. Rabbits injected from cutaneous and mammary malignancy cases, however, showed reactions of strong intensity in more than 80 per cent of the cases.

"It is our belief," he said, "that should an enlarged experience confirm the results we have obtained, the way would be paved for the diagnosis and recognition of malignancy in its early localized state."

Witch Doctors Still Exist in Belgian Congo

Natives of the Belgian Congo number close to 11,000,000. There are only about 25,000 whites in the whole colony.

Here and there, the whites have changed the ways of the natives, but in general the old customs have been kept. There still is widespread belief in magic and witch doctors.

Beetles are burned, and their ashes are placed on teeth which cause pain. This is supposed to take away the pain, or part of the pain, when the teeth are pulled out.

A British traveler, Hilton Simpson, was in a village one day and told a native he was about to go for a hunt. The native said that the village witch doctor should be asked to give him a "charm."

The witch doctor was quite ready. He reached up to his nose and pulled out a large seed, about the size of a peach stone. At least the traveler thought he saw the man get the seed out of his nose.

It was a "magic trick," most likely the witch doctor had the seed in his mouth, and used his tongue to give it a quick push toward his nose, from which it seemed to come.

The witch doctor wrapped the seed in a leaf, and Simpson took it with him into the jungle. That day his shooting was bad, and he did not bring down any game of importance. In other words, the charm didn't work.

If a witch doctor's charm fails, it does not take away all the faith of the people in his skill. They simply say, "Another charm was at work, and it had more power than the one used by our witch doctor."

Germans claim severe damage to important port of Southampton.

ORGANIZED IN 1865

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF LYNCHBURG

OFFICERS

E. P. Miller, Jr., President
J. T. Noel, Jr., Vice-President
J. L. Jones, Cashier
J. L. Nichols, Assistant Cashier
I. W. Horton, Treasurer

RESOURCES: NEARLY TEN MILLION DOLLARS

Member: Federal Reserve System Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

THE OLD BIG STRONG BANK

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Santa Comes to Pierre

Christmas Candles

Christmas tree candles date back to the very earliest times in the Christian era. The Yule candle, of goodly size, lighted early on Christmas morning, was a universal religious and national custom. Candle lighting featured the Norse mid-winter festival of the turning of the sun. The Jewish Feast of Chanukah or Lights is also celebrated similarly at the same season.

Christmas Gifts

Romans exchanged gifts during gay celebrations. But giving of presents of course goes back much earlier. The Romans, however, gave it clearer identity as a part of their festival program. Christmas boxes and cards of today have a link to the ancient Roman festivities. In France, gifts are distributed to children New Year's eve instead of Christmas. In England, Germany, Italy, and most everywhere else, the custom is like in the United States. Santa comes a-visitng at Christmas.

Christmas Wreaths

In ancient times the holly leaves regarded holy as a symbol of good luck. The custom was widespread of hanging evergreens in the interior of dwellings. Later the legend was widely circulated that all growing things blossomed and bore fruit on the night of the Nativity. Holly came also to symbolize the crown of thorns worn by Christ. The Puritans, however, regarded holly and mistletoe decorations as pagan in nature, and they therefore were outlawed.

Christmas Stockings

St. Nicholas rides Woden's horse on Christmas eve in Holland. There the children put up their wooden shoes in the chimney corners as a sign of respect for the merry elf. Children of France followed the custom by placing their shoes for Bonne Noel by the hearth. In England and the United States, boys and girls improved on the idea by hanging up stockings. These can hold more gifts.

Christmas Hymns

The Puritans predicted the disappearance of Christmas carols and did what they could to discourage the custom of singing them. But it has grown more and more a part of the Christmas tradition which began in early Christian days in Rome. The French Noel, dating to the Eleventh century, and the German Weihnachtslied, have the same origin.

National Christmas Tree

Scene of Annual Service

The United States has a national Christmas tree! It is not a spruce, fir or hemlock, but a giant Sequoia which stands more than 287 feet high. The tree is located in General Grant National park, 64 miles east of Fresno, Calif. Devotional and patriotic services held beneath the tree each year since it was selected in 1925 are broadcast over a nationwide network.

Hixburg Personals

Hixburg, Dec. 3, Rev. R. E. Redding filed his regular appointment here Sunday, although he was just recovering from an illness.

Mrs. Annie Laurie Massey, of Salem and Mrs. Fannie Taylor, of Appomattox visited in the home of Mrs. Pearl Marshall Tuesday.

Joel Watkins, of Farmville called to see Miss Janie Marshall and Mrs. E. W. Gilliam Sunday morning. He was a dinner guest in the home of J. R. Marshall.

Mrs. Margie Alsop, of Prospect spent the week end in the home of E. H. Carson, Mrs. Alsop and the Carsons called on Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Carson Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Topping spent a day and night with Mrs. C. C. Ross and family last week.

The home demonstration club met Tuesday afternoon with a good attendance. Discussion of the possibility of having a "game party" during Christmas holidays to raise money for the club was a feature of the meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Southall have a fine baby girl.

Rev. S. G. Harwood, of Victoria called to see his sisters here Thursday.

Miss Lavallette Sears spent Sunday and Sunday night with Miss Kitty Carson.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Carson, and Jesse called on Mrs. J. T. Hix and daughters Sunday afternoon.

Miss Edith Smith called in the same home yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. H. M. Marshall spent Friday with Mrs. E. F. Sears.

H. C. Wheeler is critically ill at his home here.

Miss Minnie Drinkard, of Lynchburg, died yesterday morning. The funeral services will be held at this hour on at 2:30 o'clock in the Harwood cemetery.

Only 16 shopping days left before Christmas.

City of New Orleans Likes Its Fireworks

Christmas without firecrackers just isn't Christmas down in New Orleans.

"If anybody not got no firework he might as well," say the Creoles gayly. The more the fireworks, the better the Christmas on the lower side of Canal street.

While other people are shooting off fireworks on July 4, New Orleans is sweetening under intense heat. Outside activities are out of the question.

With noisy July 4 festivities out of the question, it was easy to begin celebrating Christmas, instead, with the firing of skyrockets, Roman candles and firecrackers. Once started, there was no stopping it.

Shooting starts several weeks before Christmas, and every night the tumult increases. Parents consistently caution their children to save the fireworks until the twenty-fifth, because they won't get any more. The boys and girls refuse to believe this prophecy, but feel that Providence will not allow them to go crackersless.

Even the almost penniless have firecrackers, but the more wealthy with the envy of others with their rockets.

Enthusiasm is not limited to the young boys, but it is shared by the entire family. Boys and girls parade up and down the streets at night, making a racket with tin trumpets and instruments they picked up on the way. They ring doorbells, then run away with joyful laughter. The sky is lighted up with rockets and firecrackers beat a constant staccato.

The fun begins again the next morning, with greater enthusiasm than ever. Although a boy may have bankrupted himself the day before, firecrackers have taken a great drop in price. He must have a new supply because they are cheap.

Now the juveniles grow reckless. Whole packages of firecrackers go off at one full blow; those who were firecracker boys yesterday are skyrocket boys today. As night comes, the air is filled with the staccato sound of exploding rockets.

The second morning after Christmas the streets are strewn thick with burned pieces of fireworks; but the air is clear. The staccato of fireworks is again replaced by the perfume of Christmas roses.

Appomattox Personal Mention Items

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Lewis and son, Ronnie have returned to their home here after spending several weeks in Chatham and Danville.

Judge Joel W. Flood plans to go to the hospital tomorrow for a tonsil operation.

Friends are glad to see J. C. Hudgins out again after a recent illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Spencer spent the week end at Victoria.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer attended the funeral of his uncle, Mr. A. Sydney Spencer, in Buckingham county on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Shepps, of Grundy spent several days last week in the home of Dr. and Mrs. C. F. James.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Scott, of Bedford, spent last week end here with Mrs. J. A. Burke.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Caldwell spent Wednesday in Richmond.

Mrs. G. F. Abbit Jr. has been sick for several days.

Miss Kate O'Brien spent the week end in New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Godsey recently visited in Bedford.

Christmas Tree Industry 'Aims to Please'

Shop early this Christmas. Read today's Christmas Ads!

A highly developed industry satisfies all types of customers. It is a workman after handling his tree according to size and grade is in the butts to even lengths. In old communities, taller trees are desired. For modern low-ceilinged living rooms, only medium sized trees find ready market. The most popular kind of Christmas tree is the fir. It is generally preferred because it tends to hold its needles longer than any other evergreen tree. Spruces, pines, hemlocks and red-cedars are also used as Christmas trees.

sale of furniture for Christmas

MANY LOVELY SUITES

- BED ROOM
- LIVING ROOM
- DINING ROOM
- BREAKFAST

BED ROOM SUITES \$39.50 to \$150

- BLANKETS 75c TO \$5.95
- BED SPRINGS \$6.75 TO \$19.75
- MATTRESSES \$6.50 TO \$39.50

Tier, Lamp and End TABLES Extra fine ply veneers make these Tables unusually attractive values 98c TO \$5.29

SMOKING STANDS

LUGGAGE We have a fine line of Leather Goods. Why not a Gift of Luggage? 98c TO \$15.00

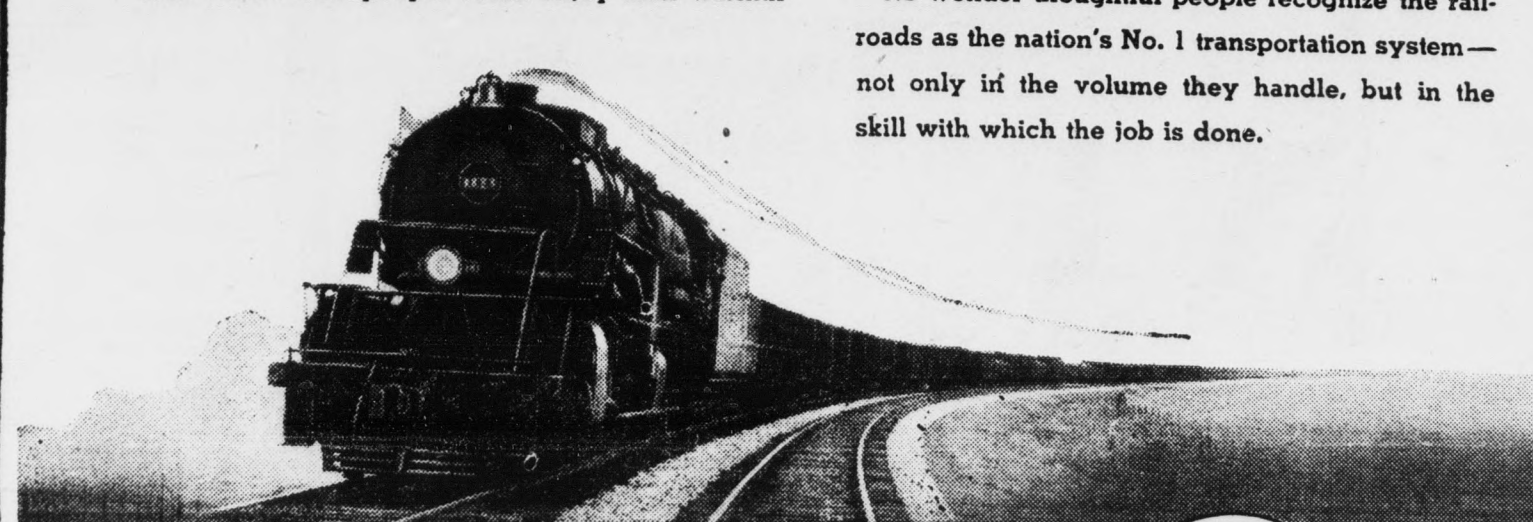
Beautiful Gold Leaf Frame PICTURES Priced low for Christmas!

SCATTER RUGS 9x12 CONGOLEUM FELT BASE RUGS

J. C. HUDGINS

FURNITURE STORE--Appomattox, Virginia

Here's how America gets the power to go ahead!



What do you see here? Just a lot of railroad coal cars? Listen—

You're looking at the greatest source of energy in America.

Coal is No. 1 source of power in the nation's factories.

Coal is No. 1 source of warmth in the nation's homes.

Coal gives us iron and steel. Coal generates most of the electricity used in this country. And just a handful of coal contains enough energy to pull a ton of freight a mile on America's railroads.

Did you know that it takes more than a million tons a day to supply the nation's demands for light and heat and power?

Did you know that the annual value of the bituminous and anthracite coal mined in the United States exceeds that of all other minerals combined?

But without adequate transportation from mines to the rest of the country these coals would have little value. Few people could enjoy their warmth and comfort—most manufacturing plants would have to be located near the mines.

It is only because railroads provide quick, dependable, cheap transportation to every corner of the land that people can use this inexpensive fuel, and that manufacturing and power plants, producing for our daily needs and for national defense, can be located long distances from the coal fields and still be sure of a steady flow of fuel.

To meet the nation's needs, railroads every day are called upon to haul enough coal to make a train 150 miles long.

No other form of transportation could come close to handling so great a job so smoothly or economically. All by itself the movement of the nation's No. 1 fuel from mine to consumer would be a notable accomplishment. But at the same time, the food you eat, the clothes you wear, most of the things you use every day—and most of the supplies for the nation's factories—flow with the same smoothness—by rail.

No wonder thoughtful people recognize the railroads as the nation's No. 1 transportation system—not only in the volume they handle, but in the skill with which the job is done.

Norfolk and Western Railway